Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of March 26, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Office Action

Claims 1-9 and 11-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,115,739 to Ogawa et al.

Claims 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,115,739 to Ogawa.

Objections to Informalities in the Claims

Claims 7, 8, and 12 were objected to because the phrase "serviced as a single unit" was unclear. The claims have been amended to remove this phrase.

Present Amendment

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that a personal imaging repository is not necessarily part of the claimed system but that the system obtains information related to a personal imaging repository. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the device firmware being configured to store link references to the scanned imaging data in a centralized data store associated to the particular user. An example of a centralized data store can be the composition store 28 of Figure 1 and/or composition store 62 of Figure 2, and their corresponding sections in the present specification. Thus, no new matter has been added.

The Present Claims Patentably Distinguish Over the References of Record

Amended claim 1 recites that the device firmware is configured to store a link reference to the scanned imaging data in a centralized data store associated to the particular user. Claim 1 further recites that this allows remote web services to locate

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imaging data associated with the particular user by accessing the centralized data store.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,115,739 to Ogawa et al. Ogawa describes a scanner that can be directly connected to a network and a file server that stores image data from a user to a corresponding directory. Ogawa fails to teach or suggest device firmware configured to store link references to the imaging data in a centralized data store. The present application describes examples of imaging data that can be transmitted from a scanner to any one of multiple storage locations that may even include remote devices. The centralized data store of links allows for convenient identification of a user's image data that may be scattered in different locations in a personal imaging repository. For example, this allows remote web services to locate imaging data associated with the particular user by accessing the centralized data store.

Ogawa creates a one-to-one correspondence of directories to users (see abstract). Thus, image data of a user is stored in a pre-assigned directory location that is known. The system of Ogawa does not consider a centralized data store as recited in claim 1 since Ogawa does not have a need to track a user's image data that may be stored in multiple locations, or even multiple remote devices.

Since claim 1 recites features and has advantages not taught or suggested by Ogawa, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ogawa. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-10 also patentably distinguish over the Ogawa and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 12 is directed to a method of transferring scanned imaging data. Claim 12 recites that user information is obtained that identifies an imaging data store and a composition store associated to the user, and storing, in the composition store associated to the user, a link reference that identifies a location of the scanned imaging data where the composition store maintains a plurality of link references to a plurality of imaging data that may stored in separate imaging data stores.

As explained previously, Ogawa creates a one-to-one correspondence of directories to users (see abstract). Thus, Ogawa fails to teach or suggest a composition store and storing link references as claimed. Claim 12, thus, patentably

distinguishes over Ogawa. Accordingly, dependent claims 13-19 also patentably distinguish over the Ogawa and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a computer program product. Claim 20 recites that imaging data is transferred to a selected imaging data store and a reference is stored in the composition store that identifies a location of the scanned imaging data.

Ogawa teaches a file server that stores scanned images into a pre-assigned (one-to-one) directory for a user. As such, Ogawa has no purpose to store references of imaging data in a composition store associated with a user as recited in claim 20 since all imaging data for a user is in one location. Thus, Ogawa fails to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claim 20. Claim 20 patentably distinguishes over Ogawa and is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 21 is directed to a computer program product that recites transferring a link to a composition store associated with the user, the composition store being configured to contain link references to a plurality of image data associated with the user that may be stored in different imaging data stores on remote devices.

As previously explained, Ogawa teaches a system that stores image data for a user in a previously created directory assigned to the user. Thus, Ogawa fails to teach or suggest that imaging data may be stored in different imaging data stores on remote devices. As such, Ogawa fails to teach or suggest transferring a link to a composition store as recited in present claim 21. Thus, Ogawa fails to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claim 21. Claim 21 patentably distinguishes over Ogawa and is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 1-10 and 12-23** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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